

Message Text

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45

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-13 RSR-01 /126 W
----- 048888

R 251025Z JUL 73

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2063

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, MZ

SUBJ: AFTERMATH OF "ATTACK" ON GORONGOSA GAME PARK CAMP

REF: LOURENCO MARQUES 495

1. FRELIMO FIRING ON MAIN TOURIST CAMP AT CHITENGO IN GORONGOSA GAME PARK FULLY REPORTED IN JOHANNESBURG STAR OF JULY 20 AND RAND DAILY MAIL OF JULY 21. (INCIDENT NOT YET MENTIONED IN MOZAMBIQUE PRESS OR RADIO.)

2. BOTH ARTICLES ESTIMATE SHORT BURST OF ABOUT 90 ROUNDS OF AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRED AT OPEN AREA BETWEEN RESTAURANT AND BAR RIGHT AFTER NATIVE DRUM HAD GIVEN ITS USUAL SIGNAL THAT RESTAURANT WAS OPEN FOR EVENING MEAL. DENNIS GORDON, AUTHOR OF RAND DAILY MAIL ARTICLE CLAIMED HE HAD BEEN TOLD IN JUNE, WHILE VISITING GORONGOSA, THAT GUERRILLAS HAD LEFT NOTICE

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AT ADMINISTRATIVE POSTS NEAR PARK THREATENING TO ATTACK ON

A CERTAIN DAY. PRECAUTIONS WERE TAKEN BUT THERE WAS NO ATTACK ON THAT DAY. ACTUAL ATTACK CAME AS SURPRISE.

3. RAND DAILY MAIL ARTICLE REPORTS DR. BOTHELHO DE SOUSA, DIRECTOR OF MOZAMBIQUE INFORMATION AND TOURISM DEPARTMENT, AS SAYING EVERYTHING NOW BACK TO NORMAL IN GAME PARK AND SAFE FOR TOURISTS TO GO THERE.

4. POSSIBLY TO COUNTER OUTSIDE REPORTING AND TO CONFIRM THAT ALL IS WELL, LOURENCO MARQUES DAILY "NOTICIAS" OF JULY 24 CARRIED ARTICLE DESCRIBING VISIT OF ASTRONAUT CHARLES DUKE AND HIS WIFE TO GORONGOSA NATIONAL PARK JULY 20 WEEKEND (TWO DAYS AFTER ATTACK). DUKE WAS QUOTED AS ENTHUSIASTICALLY PRAISING THE PARK, DESCRIBING HOW IMPRESSED HE WAS WITH "MAGNIFICANT PEACE" IN WHICH ANIMALS ARE ENCOUNTERED. MRS. DUKE EXPRESSED SIMILAR ENTHUSIASM STATING HOW MUCH SHE ENJOYED THE "ASTONISHING TRANQUILITY" OF THE EVENINGS IN WHICH ONE COULD HEAR NOTHING BUT "THE DEEP SOUND OF THE FOREST".

5. COMMENT: IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT MOZAMBIQUE AUTHORITIES WILL TRY KEEP PARK OPERATING ON NORMAL BASIS, HOPING NO DOUBT THAT STRICT SECURITY MEASURES NOW BEING TAKEN AND EXPECTED BE INTENSIFIED IN NEXT MONTHS WILL PREVENT MORE SERIOUS INCIDENTS FROM OCCURRING. WHILE ACTUAL DANGER OF TOURISTS BECOMING INVOLVED IN FRELIMO ATTACK STILL NOT ACUTE, THERE IS, UNFORTUNATELY, NOW SOME RISK INVOLVED IN VISITING WHAT MIGHT OTHERWISE BE AFRICA'S MOST APPEALING GAME PARK.

VAN OSS

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